AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A liquid fuel cell which comprises, as an assembly:

(a) a negative electrode which serves as a hydrogen electrode:

(b) a positive electrode which serves as an oxygen electrode counterposed to the negative electrode keeping a space therebetween;

(c) a permeable membrane to partition the space between the negative and positive electrodes;

(d) an electrolyte solution in contact with the negative electrode; and

(e) an oxygen source in contact with the positive electrode;

in which the negative electrode as the hydrogen electrode is made of ~~a~~ an only surface fluorinated hydrogen absorbing alloy before or after hydrogenation and the electrolyte solution which serves also as a fuel source is an aqueous solution containing an alkaline compound and a substance capable of generating negative hydrogen ions.

Claim 2 (Original) The liquid fuel cell as claimed in claim 1 in which the hydrogen absorbing alloy forming the negative electrode is selected from the group consisting of $LaNi_{4.7}Al_{0.3}$, $MmNi_{0.35}Mn_{0.4}Al_{0.3}Co_{0.75}$, $MmNi_{3.75}Co_{0.75}Mn_{0.20}Al_{0.30}$, $Ti_{0.5}Zr_{0.5}Mn_{0.8}Cr_{0.8}Ni_{0.4}$, $Ti_{0.5}Zr_{0.5}Mn_{0.5}Cr_{0.5}Ni$, $Ti_{0.5}Zr_{0.5}V_{0.75}Ni_{1.25}$, $Ti_{0.5}Zr_{0.5}V_{0.5}Ni_{1.5}$, $Ti_{0.1}Zr_{0.9}V_{0.2}Mn_{0.6}Co_{0.1}Ni_{1.1}$ and $MmNi_{3.87}Co_{0.78}Mn_{0.10}Al_{0.38}$, in which Mm denotes a misch metal.

Claim 3 (Original) The liquid fuel cell as claimed in claim 1 in which the substance capable of generating negative hydrogen ions contained in the electrolyte

solution is a metal-hydrogen complex compound represented by the general formula $M_I^+[M_{II}^{3+}(H^-)_4]$, in which M_I is an alkali metal element and M_{II} is an element of boron, aluminum or gallium.

Claim 4 (Original) The liquid fuel cell as claimed in claim 3 in which the substance capable of generating negative hydrogen ions is potassium borohydride, sodium borohydride or lithium aluminohydride.

Claim 5 (Original) The liquid fuel cell as claimed in claim 1 in which the alkaline compound contained in the electrolyte solution is an alkali metal hydroxide.

Claim 6 (Original) The liquid fuel cell as claimed in claim 5 in which the concentration of the alkali metal hydroxide in the electrolyte solution is in the range from 5 to 30% by weight.

Claim 7 (Original) The liquid fuel cell as claimed in claim 3 in which the concentration of the metal-hydrogen complex compound in the electrolyte solution is in the range from 0.1 to 50% by weight.

Claim 8 (Original) The liquid fuel cell as claimed in claim 1 in which the oxygen source is oxygen gas or air.

Claim 9 (Original) The liquid fuel cell as claimed in claim 1 in which the oxygen source is an aqueous solution of a water-soluble oxidizing compound.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented) The liquid fuel cell as claimed in claim 1 in which the permeable membrane partitioning the space between the negative and positive electrodes is a cation exchange membrane, anion exchange membrane or amphoteric ion exchange membrane.

Claim 11 (Original) The liquid fuel cell as claimed in claim 1 in which the negative electrode has a layered structure comprising a substrate plate as a core and a cladding layer thereon made from the hydrogen absorbing alloy.

Claim 12 (Original) The liquid fuel cell as claimed in claim 11 in which the cladding layer of the hydrogen absorbing alloy on the substrate plate has a thickness in the range from 50 to 300 μm.

Claim 13 (Canceled)

Claim 14 (Currently Amended) The liquid fuel cell as claimed in claim ~~13~~ 1 in which the fluorinated surface layer of the cladding layer of the hydrogen absorbing alloy has a thickness in the range from 0.01 to 1 μm.